

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection



**Thunder Bay National
Marine Sanctuary**
500 W. Fletcher Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-8805
www.thunderbay.noaa.gov

**Alpena County
George N. Fletcher
Public Library**
211 N. First Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-6188 ext. 17



THUNDER BAY



NOAA ocean **SERVICE**

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection is housed at the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library. The Collection comprises:

- over 1,000 published works
- 65,000 photographs
- 56 linear feet of vertical files
- 40 feet of periodicals
- 100 navigation charts
- 350 shipbuilding plans
- manuscripts and ephemera
- files on over 20,000 Great Lakes watercraft

The TBNMS Research Collection is open to the public, but non-circulating. Please call 989-356-6188 ext. 17 for collection hours or to set up an appointment with the collection archivist.

A Unique Partnership

In 2004 the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary established an agreement with the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library to jointly manage the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection, one of the nation's richest maritime repositories relative to Great Lakes history.

A Generous Donation

The heart of the collection was amassed over a period of more than forty years by historian C. Patrick Labadie. When he retired from a long career in various Great Lakes maritime museums in 2000, Labadie had amassed one of the largest private collections of Great Lakes history in existence. Labadie and his wife June contributed the collection to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2003. Since that donation, dozens of others have fortified the collection with their own data.

A World-Class Resource

The greatest strength of this collection is in nineteenth-century Great Lakes wooden shipbuilding technology, but it includes information about Great Lakes ports and waterways, cargoes, ships, owners and fleets, and shipwrecks.

Collection Use

In addition to providing the historical basis for the Sanctuary's archaeological research, the collection allows Great Lakes historians and library patrons access to documents and photographs not previously available to the public. In an effort to make the collection even more accessible, a \$235,000 grant from the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries will be used to digitize the collection and create an online database of the vessels information and photographs.